

The Pocahontas Times.

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\$1.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

THE COUNTY FAIR

Long ago the poet said, "His corn and cattle are his only care; His supreme delight the county fair." President McKinley made his last speech on the fair grounds at Buffalo. Then and there he said, "Fairs and exhibitions are the time pieces which mark the progress of nations."

The fair is the play day for old and young. The place for fun and frolic—youth and maid and lemonade get together. Before fairs began the world was flat, the moon was cheese and Satan had a tail. Before fairs began to educate the bull and the boar were wild. Hair instead of wool grew on the backs of sheep and goats. Breed and blood lines did not count. Pedigrees had not been invented then. Before fairs were born men wore the corsets, muffs and long hair. Then men took more time to make their toilet than women ever took. Powder-puffs, perfume bags and bottles were part of the tools and furniture that man used to make his face fit to wear in public. Before fairs became the rule women were mostly slaves or harem inmates. They had no place in society. They were at the mercy of the whim and passion of their master.

—What a mighty change has come. Fairs have helped to lift the fog. The United States has more fairs today than all other countries combined. No one will deny that this Republic is one of the beacon lights of the world. McKinley was right—fairs mark the progress of nations. Nations having no fairs are still in darkness.

He was a bold man who first ate an oyster, crab or lobster. It took courage to stare fairs. Today the fair is the most democratic institution we have. It is a place where all breeds and creeds and colors can go and feel at home. A blue-ribbon bull will get more applause on a fair ground than a king, kaiser, candidate or a millionaire. Taffy candy and merry-go-rounds are greater kid joys than riches or mansions. The winning race driver or rider gets more applause than a movie star or a shimmy-dance stunter.

Fairs put towns on the map. Dull indeed are the merchant and manufacturer who do not play their part to make the fair a winner. The fair rubs out the Mason and Dixon line between town and country folks. There roosters crow and fakers are not slow.

Drinks used to exhibit at the fair. Seldom is the nuisance now seen. Gambling and immoral shows are growing less. The fair is now fifty-five pleasure and education. It improves the race of men and the breed of brutes. The fair has won official standing. In many states a public tax helps to support it. Better and more permanent buildings are now being erected. Fair managers should make sure their conduct of the fair is such as to win public approval or this subsidy tax may be refused.

First fairs were held in graveyards

Unless some fairs reduce their debt and interest load they will end in the cemetery. Churches conducted the first fairs, which started one thousand years ago in Rome. Then England, France and Belgium began to have fairs and improve the breeds of horses, cattle and sheep. These countries made big profit by so doing. The American farmer has poured a stream of gold into the purse of these countries in exchange for good breeding sires and dams.

In the first days the fairs was a bargain counter. Sometimes they lasted a month and sometimes they were held twice a year. Roads were not good. The merchant came part way with his wares to sell. The customers came for many miles around to buy their needs. Then as now, fun and frolic were mixed with business.

In the old days fairs opened at noon and closed at sunset. Some funny rules were in force. To avoid skin games no one could spend more than eight cents at one time, unless four or more persons were present and agreed that the person could afford to spend such a large sum of money. During the fair it was the law that the fair managers take charge of both the town and the fair. While the fair was on the shopkeepers had to close up—they could not sell a thing while the fair was on. If they wanted to do business they had to buy space at the fair and help to support the big show. Part of the privilege money went to the church and was called "God's penny." In one part of England for a time it was the law that all persons had to attend the fair or pay a fine. It was cheaper to go to the fair than to stay at home. Even then the fair was rated as a great educational institution.

When Michael Angelo rounded St. Peter's dome at Rome he builded better than he knew and rough stones to beauty grew. Those who started fairs planted an acorn that has grown an oak. In all great and important undertakings there should be wisdom to contrive strength to execute and beauty to adorn. So it is with fairs. They must have the helping hand of woman. If the girls go the boys will be there. The woman's building is usually crowded. The livestock show must divide honors with needlework, pictures, china-ware, pies, cakes and canned goods.

The agricultural hall is a mighty sign board of what kind of a country there is around the fair. It is a trademark of the community. The quality of exhibits at a fair is well nigh the quality of the folks who make the fair. The educational or school exhibit is also a mighty token of what kind of teachers we have in state and nation. The dull and indifferent teacher fears to have her or his pupils show their school room work in competition with the work of good teachers. Why not give a premium on brains as well as bulls? Why not give a prize to boys and girls as well as to market animals? By so doing the fair can greatly increase its crowd and its usefulness.

This week I was shown part of a

school exhibit to be shown at the Noble County Fair, Caldwell, Ohio, of which Bill Matheny is secretary. This exhibit is a collection of fine group pictures taken of every school in the county and showing all grades and phases of school and club work. Great interest in both schools and the fair has been aroused.

Fairs are now in partnership with universities, agricultural colleges, Smith-Hughes schools and other educational forces. Boys' and Girls' club work enrolls thousands who are trying to win a prize and the king-row. It is better for a boy to know the best breed of animals to fit his farm than to know the best breed of cigarettes to smoke. It is better for a girl to know how to cook and can and bake and sew than to be her to be an expert tango trotter. No yard stick is made that can measure the good that the right kind of fairs are doing.

Fair managers sometimes go to seed—or get the dry-rot. Some fair officials think that a fair is the time and place for them to strut around and wear a badge and hand out free meal tickets to their relatives and political friends so as to make the world safe for their reelection. Other fair managers are always on the job and ready to do more than their share of work. They are at their departments during the fair to help all exhibitors. They talk and boost the fair every day of the year. They take part in community affairs, farm institutes, etc. They encourage club work. They keep on good terms with teachers. Then in due time they bring all these folks into the fair work.

Fair grounds must be better cared for, buildings painted and made cheerful in appearance, trees and shrubbery planted, flower beds given a place, good roads on grounds, drain pipes, more sanitary toilets and rest rooms, more places to get safe drinking water. Lack of any of these is black-eye and a hindrance to any fair. Many fair grounds should be used by the public more than they are. One fair informs me that it will have thirty full grown poodles and several family reunions this season.

The successful fair manager must always have something new. The historic pageant is a strong feature when rightly made and conducted. Van Wert, Ohio, Fair is staging a great singing contest. The prizes will total \$2,000. It fits the neighborhood and will add to receipts more than it costs and get a lot of new folks to the fair.

The National Stockman and Farmer is giving a helping hand to fairs. It is fully convinced that the right kind of a fair is a great blessing. Until the sun is cold and the moon is old, lovers will woo and coo and agree to wed about fair time. Many life partnerships have been formed on the way to and from fairs. Not long ago one man said to another, "John, do you know that this is a wonderful age in which we are living? We are flying around the world and talking around it and doing a lot of other miracles. And do you know there is now a concern that can tell whether a man is lying or telling the truth?"

John sputtered and said, "Yes, I know it. I married one of them."—National Stockman and Farmer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS

This grand army is composed in part of the million and three quarters or more Sunday School officers and teachers of the United States. A part of this army were the happy ones who marched at the Fair last Wednesday. Happy! Happy! Show your colors where you belong. Good! A great success for the first.

This grand army of a million and three quarters or more is made up of men and women and young people of varying ages, qualifications, ability, training and fitness. Some of them fall below the recognized standards of fitness. Some of them realize it. I realize it. Nevertheless I have only words of highest commendation for this grand army of volunteer workers in the church. It is quite common with some Sunday School specialists to knock these teachers and their teaching and the improvement in our Sunday Schools. I don't want to be classified among the knockers.

While we realize the limitations and lack of preparation and consecration on the part of many Sunday School workers of America, the fact never the less remains, in our humble judgment, that the church of God cannot produce another million and three quarters members who are as faithful, efficient and devoted as this grand army of Sunday School officers and teachers.

You cannot get people up by knocking them down.

The apple tree that is climbed the most is the one that bears the best apples.

There are a number of would be leaders in the field of religious education who are continually complaining of the poor teaching that is being done in our Sunday Schools. While they themselves do not even attend the school at all; much less attend to teach classes or to direct and improve the work of religious education in their own churches.

"Study to show thy self approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."—Second Timothy 2:15.

By the way, who started the first Sunday school in Pocahontas county? Let us hear from others.

While at the Fair last week I met the young minister, Rev. John C. B. McLaughlin. He is a grandson of the late Andrew McLaughlin. He is a fine young man, a good talker and a great worker at Buckley. And that is what made me happy. Give us more young men like him.

J. H. B. Huntersville, W. Va.

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FROM BATH ENTERPRISE

Mrs. John Cleek, formerly of Bath county, entertained a number of her friends and relatives at her home at Hillsboro, W. Va., Sunday, August 16.

Those present were:

Hugh Lyons, Minnie Lyons, Edna Lyons, Nancy Lyons, Ed McDaniel, Frank DeFaulker and wife, of Clarksburg, W. Va.; Cecil Hiner and wife, of Spring Creek, W. Va.; F. J. Hanna and wife, of Hinton, W. Va.; Will Cleek, Mike Cleek, Annie Cleek, Esy Mayse, Christine Mayse and Catherine Hiner, of Hillsboro, W. Va.

In the afternoon all drove to Minnehaha Springs where a delightful lunch was served in picnic style. Although past 70 years of age, Mrs. Cleek is as "spry" as a cricket, and thinks nothing of walking two or three miles.

W. J. Pritchard and daughter are attending the Pocahontas county fair.

Mrs. R. D. Rime, of Rime, W. Va., is at the home of her stepdaughter, Mrs. C. A. Gum, under the care of Dr. Torrence. She has been suffering from colic.

Miss Nettie McClintic died in Covington Saturday at the home of her sister-in-law, Mrs. T. S. McClintic. The funeral was conducted at Covington and her body was laid to rest in the McClintic burying ground at the word of truth.—Second Timothy 2:15.

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GRAND JURORS
The Sheriff is commanded in the name of the state to summon the following named persons to appear before the Judge of the circuit court of Pocahontas county, at the said court-house of said county, on the 1st day of September 1925, to serve as grand jurors at the September Term of said Court.

Greenbank District—G. D. Oliver, George V. Hanhah, Don M. Nicholas, S. R. Pritchard, Morgan Rader, Edray District—A. W. Hill, B. C. May, W. C. Lundy, L. D. Sharp, Look McNeill.

Huntersville District—Moses W. Underwood, H. Lee White.

Little Love's District—J. G. Hamrick, B. C. Hayes, Henry S. Burr.

Order of Publication
State of West Virginia.
At rules held at the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court of Pocahontas county on Monday, the 23rd day of August, 1925.

Lillie J. Hull.
vs
Brown C. Hull.
In Chancery

The object of the above entitled suit is to obtain by the plaintiff, Lillie J. Hull, from the defendant, Brown C. Hull, a divorce from the bonds of matrimony and for general relief.

And it appearing by affidavit filed in this cause that the said defendant, Brown C. Hull, is a non-resident of this state, it is ordered that he do appear here within one month after the date of the first publication hereof and do what is necessary to protect his interest in this suit.

D. C. Adkison Clerk

A Copy Teste:
J. W. Yeager, Solicitor.

NOTICE
The rate on Marlinton & Elk Mutual Telephone Co. for 1925 is \$10; switchboard charges must be paid. All accounts not settled by September 1, will be placed in the hands of Capt. Smith for collection.

S. Mc Dille, Sec. Treas.
Aug. 11, 1925. Marlinton, W. Va.

NOTICE TO H. S. STUDENTS
I am renting the R. S. Rucker residence and expect to conduct a boarding and rooming house for High School Girls. Terms for board and room full time \$25 per month. For students going home over week end, \$22.50. For additional information address
Mrs. C. W. Marshall

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SOMETHING DANGEROUS IN THE ROAD SITUATION

The delay of Governor Gore in filling the vacancy on the State Road Commission caused by the resignation of Dr. E. H. Stephenson, has caused a good deal of discussion and speculation. The Review assumes the Governor's good reasons for deferring the matter and that he will not be bluffed, bullied or cajoled into making an unwelcome selection to gratify some person, faction or interest. The Governor is giving his personal attention to the road situation—indeed, as we understand it, is personally directing the commissioner's activities and it is, therefore, but natural that he should be most careful of his selection of a new commissioner.

In all this road talk, however, one important thing is being overlooked, especially by the rural counties, which stand for a trimming if they do not watch out and if the Governor does not protect them. It is our understanding that the legislature, at its last session, amended the law relative to the distribution of the Federal Aid; that under the law as amended, instead of the two million dollars of Federal money that comes to the State annually being distributed to the projects in the various counties on the same basis as the 80 per cent of the proceeds of the State bonds, the amended act empowers the Road Commission to use the Federal money according to its discretion—its own sweet will. There is a feeling on the part of many persons that the amendment referred to was worked through by a few of the more populous counties in order to trim the rural counties like Hampshire out of their percentage of the Federal funds, and that had the members of the legislature known the purpose the change never would have been made. This is something the newspapers have not discussed. It is something, however, which they had better watch and urge the Governor to watch most closely.—Hampshire Review.

DENTAL NOTICE
I will be away from my office until September 3rd.
Dr. W. A. Hammen,
Cass, W. Va.

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